



FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Do we ever ask, "How do we go and make disciples of all nations?" It is what Jesus commands the disciples to do in Matthew 28 and we, as Christ's disciples in 2014, are to continue Christ's work as the disciples did. But how do we fulfill this command of Jesus today? Things have changed a great deal since the first century. Some might say it is easier to continue Christ's ministry today because we have communication advancements that allow us to spread God's word with people all over the world. Others might say that those same advancements have made it more difficult because those who would try to separate us from Christ share the same technology. Now I could easily spend a great deal of ink on all the positive and negative changes over that past 2000 years or I could simply say that the same good and evil existed in the first century that existed today. But you see, these apologies for discipleship often become justifications for a lack of discipleship. For example, in the 1960's and '70's, there was a profound movement in our culture to Christianity and many people accepted God's gift of faith in Jesus Christ. Yet many existing believers rejected them because they looked different, worshipped differently, and openly professed their love for Christ. The reigning powers of our culture quickly labeled them as "Jesus Freaks." This is not the first time people, who have accepted their faith in a way different than the accepted "normal" way, have been rejected. We have all heard the terms for Christians that don't fit the cultural mold: Bible Thumper, Born-Again Christian, Evangelist, Holy Roller, Shaker, and Religious Nut or Fanatic. These words have been twisted and formed to put down people who embrace faith in Jesus Christ. And that is where we return to the beginning.

"How do we go and make disciples of all nations?"—when being a disciple of Christ may put us on the receiving end of these derogatory terms. I guess we must ask ourselves, "Is the Kingdom of Heaven through faith in Jesus Christ more valuable than what people may think or say of us here on earth?" If we know Jesus, we know the answer to that question because Jesus said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:10-12). So let us shake, let us dance, let us sing, let us share, and let us proclaim our faith and bring others to Christ because our reward is guaranteed by living and believing in him.

As we enter September, our first order of business is a joint Mission/Christian Education event. The Sunday School Kick-Off/ Community Picnic and Ice Cream Social will be held on Saturday, September 6th. This year there are new games, great food, awesome music provided by our own Christian DJ, Makayla Schluter, and of course ICE CREAM! I hope that all of our members will invite a neighbor or friend to join us as we begin our new program year. The next day Sunday School begins at 9:00 am and our worship services return to their 10:15 am time slot. We also have a new confirmation class that begins the next leg of their faith journey on Wednesday, September 17th. There is always more going on, but you will have to check our weekly calendar in our worship bulletin on Sunday. See you in church

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve

"God doesn't bless us just to make us happy;
He blesses us to make us a blessing."

Warren W. Wiensbe

THIS MONTH USHERS

SEPTEMBER USHER SCHEDULE

September 7 Church Council
 September 14 Beth Fox, Linda Freese
 September 21 Scott & Carmen Fields,
 Cody Fields & Tessa Fields
 September 28 Senior High Fellowship



September 7 Church Council
 September 14 Addison Luepker &
 Makenzie Poppe
 September 21 Kaci Gottschalk & Addison
 Luepker
 September 28 Makenzie Poppe & Kaci
 Gottschalk



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 2 Shelly Ann Marie Jacobs
 September 4 Ray Wiese, Linda Freese,
 Marcine Miller
 September 5 Jess Axline,
 September 6 Nola Wenndt
 September 7 Brett Esbaum, Avery
 Luepker
 September 8 Emily Hayton
 September 9 *Erica Kahl
 September 12 Henry Boedeker, Gail
 Hamdorf, Caitlyn Neill
 September 17 Vicki Mohr
 September 19 Helen Gottschalk
 September 21 Christopher Drewelow
 September 22 Alice Rowold
 September 23 Joy Combs, Randy Horman
 September 24 Heather Griesbach
 September 25 Taylor Lohman
 September 26 *David Holst, Jared Bentrrott
 September 27 Bob Rowold, *Pam Jensen,
 Royce Gottschalk,
 September 28 Rhonda Poppe
 September 29 Steve Poppe, Kelli Proesch,
 Jennifer Horman

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

September 6 Nola Wenndt, 403 Hall
 Avenue, P.O. Box 283,
 Lowden, Iowa 52255
 September 12 Henry Boedeker, 101
 Roosevelt Avenue, Lowden,
 Iowa 52255
 September 19 Helen Gottschalk, 404 1st
 Street, PO Box 252, Lowden,
 Iowa 52255
 September 22 Alice Rowold, 307 Main
 Street, Lowden, Iowa 52255



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

September 2 Allen & Sandra Koch 54 years
 September 2 Darrell, Jr. & Jody Yutesler 24 yrs.
 September 8 Brad & Liz Norton 35 years
 September 9 Kent & Janice Strackbein 53 yrs.
 September 11 Pete & Sharon Johnson 49 yrs.
 September 15 Gary & Kim Klahn 30 yrs.
 September 18 Jill & Mike Jacobs 4 years
 September 26 Wilbert & Nola Wenndt 66 Yrs.



ZION EVENING CIRCLE July 21, 2014

On Monday, July 21, Zion Evening Circle members enjoyed a delicious breakfast buffet at the Mill Creek Café in Clarence. Following the meal the minutes of the last meeting were read. Correspondence was read from McKenna Luepker, Andrew Fields and Joy.

A discussion was held on the Church and Ministry luncheon record book. Anyone who knows where it is please call Donna Luepker. Linda Freese volunteered to serve one year as president to fill out Bonnie's term.

The project committee asked members to help with ideas for next year's program

Vice president, Donna, reminded members to change the message on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board when it is their month to be in charge of flowers at church.

Terry, representing the Mission Committee, informed us there will be a summer picnic like we had last year on the Church lawn. Volunteers will be needed to assist the committee and to donate.

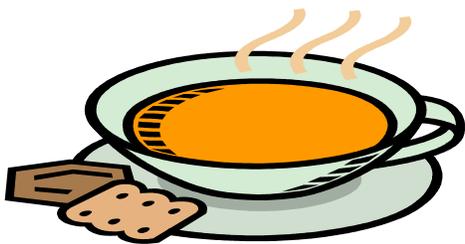
Meeting was adjourned.

Marilyn Klahn

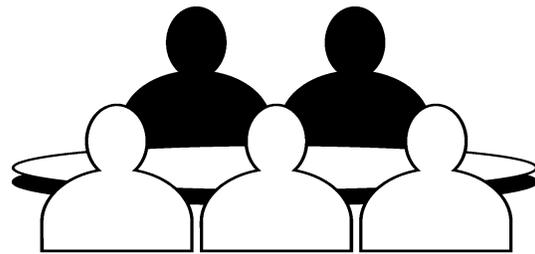
Secretary

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Evening Circle, you are invited to join them for their annual picnic at Fox's pond on September 15 at 5:30. If you are interested in joining and have any questions check with any Evening Circle member. They would happy to fill you in.



STILL COLLECTING: The Evening Circle is still collecting Campbell's labels, Our Family labels and Box Tops for Education. Milk jugs are no longer being collected. The Evening Circle will be cutting, sorting, and counting labels at their November meeting. If you have any of these labels the Evening Circle has a box placed on the desk in the narthex for you to place them in. They thank you for your support.



COUNCIL MEETING ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING JULY 22, 2014

Zion United church of Christ Council met at 5:30 p.m. on July 22, 2014. The meeting was called to order by President Donavon Freese, Pastor Steve opened with a prayer. Those in attendance were Pastor Steve, Donavon Freese, Kevin Kahl, LeRoy Luepker, Mark McElaney, and Tanya Stewart. Renate Port was absent. Linda Behrens was present thru the treasurer's report.

Joy and concern were shared.

Secretary's minutes from the last meeting were read and approved, after a discussion on the sidewalk repair was held. A Motion was made by LeRoy, second by Kevin, motion carried.

Calendar Review: VBS 7/27 thru 07/31

Red Roots concert 11/15 7p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Organ project on hold. Crome Organ Co. unavailable. Organ committee to review further options.
- Bills paid to JJJ and Lowden Plumbing & Heating.

NEW BUSIENS:

- New bushes being planted this week by Grounds committee
- Discussed spraying church lawn for weed this fall, front lawn only.
- Water in the basement week of June 30. Received bill from Better Way cleaning & Restoration Service. Funds to paid bill motioned by LeRoy, second by Mark. Motion carried.
- Discussed new mail plan for offering envelopes. Approved on a motion by Mark, second by Kevin. Motion carried. To begin January 2015.
- Sidewalk and east catch basin project is still under review by Building & Grounds Committee.

- East entry project remains under construction. Wes Griesbach will be contacted concerning completion
- Boiler inspector came for yearly inspection, awaiting letter for improvements.

Pastor's report read and approved on a motion by LeRoy, second by Mark.

Discussion topic: What is the most important part (person, place, and thing) of your life?



"For the Beauty of the Church"

"We would like to thank members of the church- Bonnie Kintzel, Pete Johnson, Donavon Freese, LeRoy Luepker, Duane Lasack, Merlin and Carma Conrad- who helped us trim shrubs, pull out an older larger tree and shrub, pull weeds and clean up the landscaping in front of the church. Thanks also to the person or persons who trimmed the 3 bushes on the east side of the church earlier this year. Because the bush and a tree had grown so large and were hard to trim and maintain they have been replaced. The bush to the west of the front steps has been replaced by 2 Rose of Sharon bushes and the tree at the southeast corner has been replaced by a Lavender Twist Weeping Redbud.

Again ~ big thanks to those who helped and anyone else who stops to pull a weed!

Janice Strackbein and Terry Lasack



Attention Bell Choir.

Bell Choir practice will begin Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30 to 8:00?

We welcome new members! If you are interest in joining Bell Choir please contact Terry Lasack.



To everyone who brought and shared their special treats with our church family at our fellowship hour we offer you a special thank you. This enhanced our fellowship time together and everything was delectable.

Thanks again.

Celebration

Sixty-eight years ago, Beulah Horstmann married Hubert Gade at the Zion United Church of Christ in Lowden, Iowa. Now Hubert is turning 90 years young on August 26th, and Beulah is turning 90 years young on October 2nd. They are the parents of three daughters, Pat Gade, Pam Richmann, and Greta Gade Gabrielson. They are the grandparents of seven with 6 great grandchildren. They now are residing at the Wheatland Manor in Wheatland, Iowa. If you would like to send them a birthday greeting, their address is PO Box 369, Wheatland, Iowa 52777. They would be very pleased to hear from you. Their wedding anniversary is on December 28th but if you'd like to send them an anniversary card that would be fine also.



Vacation Bible School Wrap Up

2014 VBS broke records!!! We had 53 youth attend our 5 nights of Vacation Bible School. Our nights were full of activities including Bible Adventures; Singing Stampede; Games; Imagination Station with incredible crafts, and a delicious meal! We finished the week with a great finale on Thursday night along with a sleep over with 36 youth!

We cannot thank the volunteers enough for dedicating their time and helping make our VBS successful!!! And again, thank you to everyone who helping fund our VBS by making or buying pies at our Annual VBS Pie Auction!

Sunday School Kickoff

We are excited to kick-off our 2014-2015 Christian Education Year with an ICE CREAM SOCIAL on Saturday, September 6 in our church's backyard from 4:30pm – 7:00pm. There will be Maidrites; Ice Cream treats; Popcorn; games and music! Don't miss out on this fun event!

Our classes begin on Sunday, September 7 at 9AM. All youth are welcome if they are 3 years old or older. Please be sure to fill out an enrollment form and permission slip for your youth! Thank you!



Mission of Hope

Featuring the Country Christian band

red roots

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming concert event!! Mark your calendars and order your tickets for Saturday, November 15 at 7PM. We fully anticipate selling out this event! So get your tickets early! \$8 in advance (\$10 at the door) and children 10 years old and under, \$5. Proceeds will go towards Local Mission

Funds! We ask all concert goers to bring a non-perishable item with them and donate! There will also be a dessert reception following the concert and an opportunity to meet the band! The ladies of Red Roots are talented performers and at home on the stage. For more information, please go to our website, zionucclouden.org OR directly to <http://theredroots.com>. I encourage everyone to take a listen to their music; your excitement will grow just as ours has!

~About the BAND ~

"With a stage persona as fiery as their blazing red locks, these triplets engage the crowd with their story through real life lyrics and rolling banjos intertwined with rocking guitars. Through their unwavering boldness there is a Southern Mississippi charm rooted in faith, family, and an unshakable call to show the world where true Hope is found."